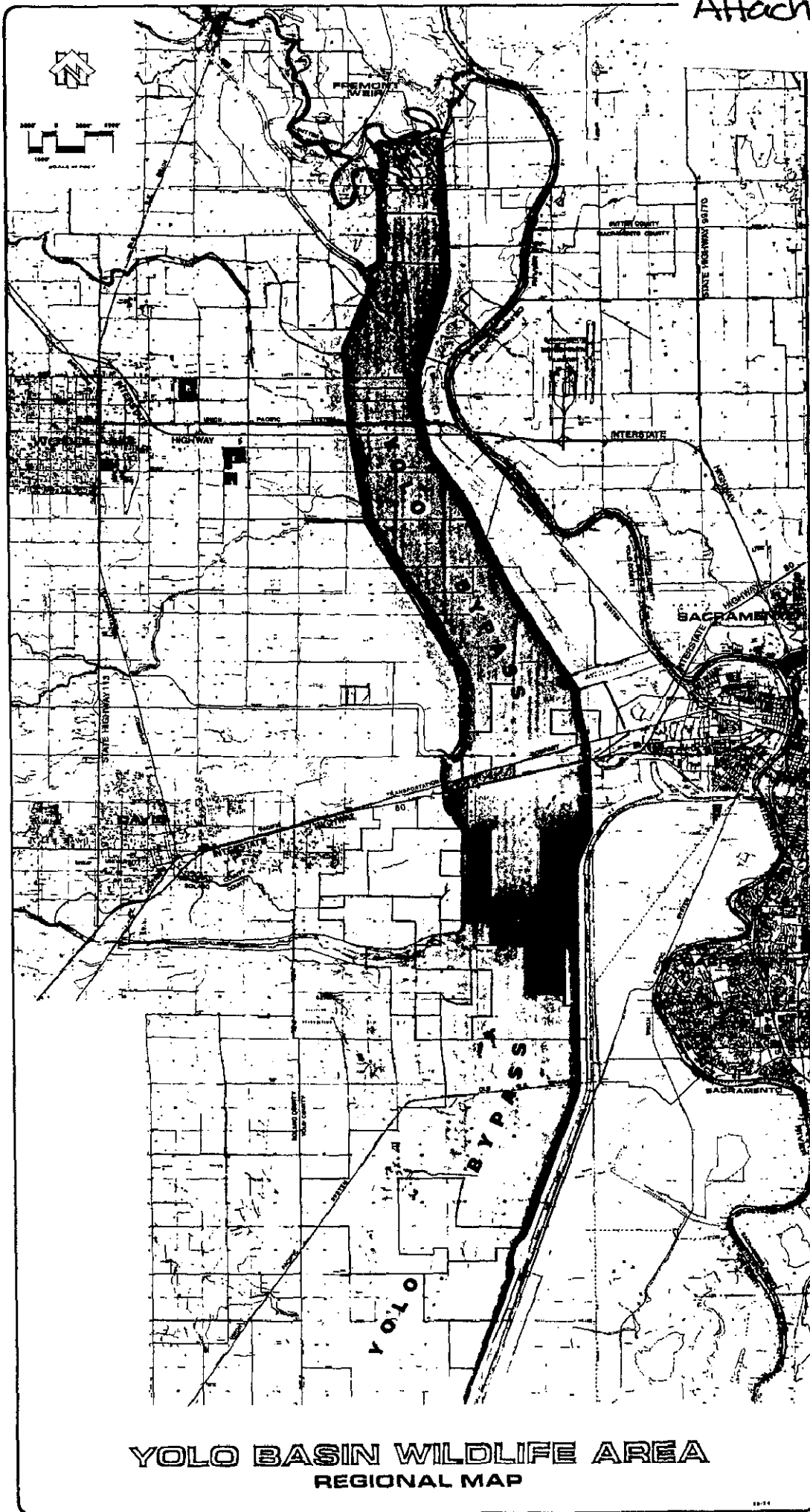
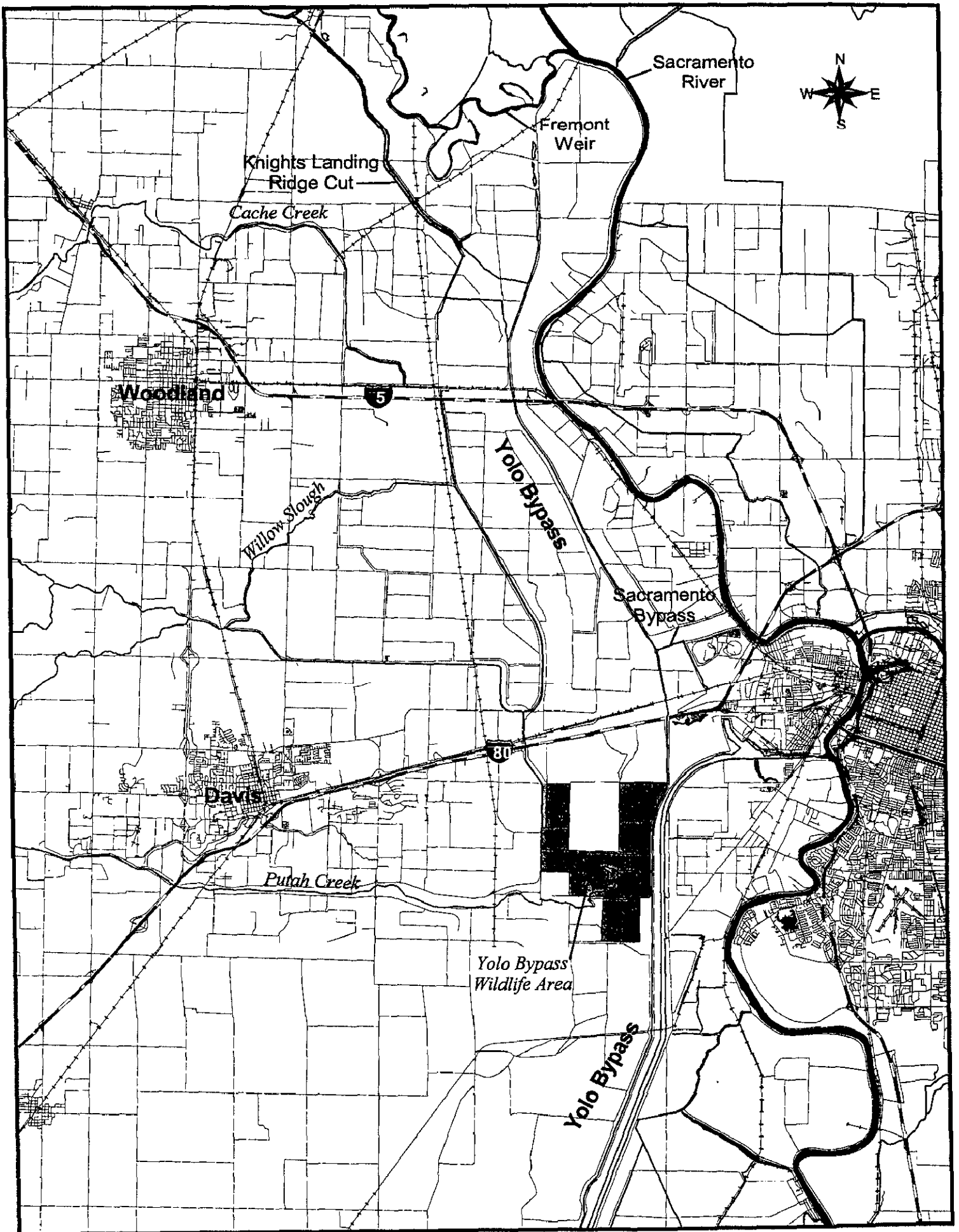


List of Attachments

- 1. Yolo Bypass Regional Map**
- 2. Yolo Bypass Map**
- 3. Board of Directors**
- 4. Table 1 Budgeted Cost Breakdown**
- 5. Table 2 Service Contract Budgeted Cost Breakdown**
- 6. References**
- 7. Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement**
- 8. Newspaper Articles**
- 9. Yolo Flyway**
- 10. Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer**





Attachment 2

**Yolo Basin Foundation
Board of Directors, July 1997**

The following is a listing of the board of directors with a brief description of their professional affiliations:

John Anderson	University of California, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (retired) Yolo Co. Resource Conservation District, associate director Founding member Calif. Native Grass Association Owner, Hedgerow Farms, Farmer actively involved in native habitat restoration and commercial production of native grass seed for restoration.
Manny Carbahal	<i>Chief Financial Officer, YBF Executive Committee</i> Certified Public Accountant, Carbahal & Co. Yolo County Chamber of Commerce City of Davis Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Kilkenny	Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club Loan officer, First Northern Bank of Dixon
Robin Kulakow	<i>Secretary, YBF Executive Committee</i> <i>Executive Director</i> Masters of Administration, UC Davis USDA, Forest Service, Soil Scientist Putah Creek Council, treasurer Cache Creek Conservancy board of directors
Betsy Marchand	Yolo County Board of Supervisors (former) American River Watershed Investigation, Executive Committee Yolo-Solano Flood Control & Water Conservation District Governmental Affairs, Families First
Frank MacBride	President, MacBride Realty Co., Sacramento Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club
Ken Noack Jr.	KVIE Public Television, President, Board of Directors Land Broker, Bishop Hawk, Sacramento
Susan Sanders	Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis Consulting wildlife biologist (freelance) Putah Creek Council, co-chair Former president, Yolo Audubon Society

Stephen Sheppard *YBF Executive Committee*
Environmental Planner, EDAW (San Francisco)
Ph.D. in Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley
Wildlife artist

Paul Simmons *President, YBF Executive Committee*
Attorney at law, De Cuir and Somach, Sacramento

Meg Stallard Vice President, Woodland School Board
League of Women Voters

Brian Sway *Vice-president, YBF Executive Committee*
Energy Industry consultant

Chris Unkel California Nature Conservancy, Director, California
Wetlands Program
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Board of Directors
Former Coordinator California Wildlands Program, Department
of Fish and Game

Lois Wolk Mayor , City of Davis
Council liaison for water and wetlands
Member, Yolo County Water Resources Association

Former Board members:

Ted Beedy Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis
Consulting wildlife biologist-Jones & Stokes Associates
Author, Discovering Sierra Birds
Former president, Yolo Audubon Society

Steve Chainey Consulting Restoration Ecologist, Jones & Stokes
Associates
Putah Creek Council, Co-Chair
Cache Creek Conservancy Board of Directors

Renee Fitzsimons Public Outreach Coordinator, Stone Lakes National
Wildlife Refuge (former)
Master of Science , Environmental Communication, CSU,
Sacramento
Former chair, Sunrise Recreation & Park District Board

John Ott Principal, Sequoia Associates, Davis (land development)

Attachment 4
Table 1
Budgeted Cost Breakdown

Cost Breakdown

Yolo Bypass Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Expenses	Year 1 1997/98
STAFF	
Executive Director 30hr/mo.	\$ 8,000
Administrative Assistant 20 hr/mo	\$ 2,880
Total Labor	\$ 10,880
Service Contract:	
Jones & Stokes Associates	\$ 154,000
Direct Costs:	
Operations & materials	\$ 2,000
Operations + Labor	\$ 166,880
Indirect Costs :	
Overhead at 10%	\$ 16,688
Total Project Cost Requested from Calfed	\$ 183,568

Table 2 - Cost Breakdown Table

Project Phase and Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary and Benefits	Overhead Labor (General, Admin and fee)	Service Contracts	Material and Acquisition Contracts	Miscellaneous and other Direct Costs	Total Cost
Task 1				\$30,640			
Task 2				\$12,700			
Task 3				\$20,003			
Task 4				\$13,457			
Task 5				\$46,883			
Task 6				\$18,263			
Task 7				\$11,248			

Yolo Basin Foundation
References
July 1997

Elected Officials:

Congressman Vic Fazio
722-B Main
Woodland CA 95695
666-5521

Helen Thomson
Assemblywoman, Eighth District
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
445-8368

Betsy Marchand
Yolo County Board of Supervisors,
retired
926 Craig Place
Davis CA 95616
756-0521

Lois Wolk
Mayor
City of Davis
1209 Colby
Davis CA 95616
756-9655

Meg Stallard
Vice Chair
Woodland School Board
10 Toyon Drive
Woodland CA 95695
666-0154

Governmental Agencies:

Doug Wheeler
Secretary
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814
654-2753

Dave Paullin
Coordinator
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture
2233 Watt Ave, Suite 375
Sacramento CA 95825-0509
979-2085

Col. Dorothy K. Klasse
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Sacramento CA 95814
557-7490

Ryan Broddrick
Deputy Director
Department of Fish & Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814
653-0991

Tanis Toland
Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Sacramento CA 95814
557-6717

Craig Stowers
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Manager
Department of Fish & Game
45211 County Road 32B
Davis, CA 95616
757-2461

Non-profit Conservation Organizations:

Keith Rubin
Executive Director
California Waterfowl Association
4630 Northgate Boulevard, Suite 150
Sacramento CA 95834
648-1406

Ron Stromstad
Director of Operations
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
3074 Gold Canal Drive
Rancho Cordova CA 95670-6116
852-2000

Ann Brice
Executive Director
Cache Creek Conservancy
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Woodland CA 95695
661-1070

University of California:

Joyce Gutstein
Assoc. Director
Public Service Research Program
UC Davis
Davis CA 95616
752-7823

Peter Moyle
Professor
University of California
Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology
Davis CA 95616
752-6355

Education:

Barbara Wells
Principal
Pioneer School
5215 Hamel Drive
Davis CA 95616
757-5480

Private Sector:

Fred Teichert
Executive Director
Teichert Foundation
P.O. Box 15002
Sacramento CA 95851-1002
484-3011, 484-3364

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

COMPANY NAME

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

OFFICIAL'S NAME

Robin J. Kulakow

DATE EXECUTED

7-15-97

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

Yolo

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

Robin J. Kulakow

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Executive Director

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.

Attachment 8

Newspaper Articles

Sacramento Bee

Davis Enterprise

Woodland Daily Democrat

West Sacramento Press

Wetland Link International News

OPINION

The Sacramento Bee

Locally owned and edited for 138 years

JAMES McCLATCHY, *editor, 1857-1883*

C.K. McCLATCHY, *editor, president, 1883-1936*

ELEANOR McCLATCHY, *president 1936-1978*

WALTER P. JONES, *editor, 1936-1974*

C.K. McCLATCHY, *editor, 1974-1989*

GREGORY FAVRE, *executive editor*

PETER SCHRAG, *editorial page editor*

FRANK R.J. WHITTAKER, *president and general manager*

Refuge in a flood channel

The groundbreaking ceremonies this morning for the creation of a \$16 million wildlife refuge in the Yolo Bypass flood channel west of Sacramento represents the culmination of seven years of effort by environmentalists and a wide range of federal, state and local officials. Nearly all agree that much of the credit for finally bringing these disparate interests together belongs to Robin Kulakow, executive director the Yolo Basin Foundation.

The big question for the future is whether this same spirit of cooperation can be preserved once the construction is finished and the birds move in.

The project envisions reconfiguring 3,400 acres of the flood channel with trees, brush and ponds that would provide an important new habitat along the Pacific Flyway. The work won't restore the area to its natural state but aims instead at creating a hybrid environment that would be more hospitable to wildlife yet still not interfere with the use of the bypass for flood protection.

The record of success for artificial wetlands projects of this kind is mixed; people just aren't as experienced yet as Mother Nature at building habitats. But state and federal flood control officials are satisfied they've come up with a design that won't interfere with current operation of the bypass. And state Fish and Game officials are confident they can construct all that additional marsh area in a way that will still keep the resulting mosquito population low enough so that there won't be any threat to public health.

The Corps of Engineers acknowledges, however, that its calculations only apply to the way the bypass is being run now, not to any changes that may be made in the years ahead. One of the options currently under consideration for enhancing flood protection for the Sacramento metropolitan area calls for passing much greater volumes of water into the bypass during extremely rainy periods. That would require major structural changes in the bypass itself. But the Army engineers haven't determined how those changes might conflict with the new habitat area — or if there'd be any conflict at all.

The question is important because much of the success of the habitat depends ultimately upon the good will of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency that has often received low marks as a cooperative partner. The feds signed a formal agreement in 1994 promising not to interfere with the state's initial plan for the habitat. But once endangered species settle there, or if changes have to be made for flood protection, that attitude could change. The Fish and Wildlife biologists made no promises for the future, and state officials argued in 1994 that they had no choice but to make a leap of faith that the wildlife agency would act in good faith as the project evolves.

The proponents of the wildlife refuge have had to overcome a lot of bureaucratic resistance to bring about today's celebration. But their responsibility won't end with the turning of a first spadeful of earth. There are still plenty of questions that won't have answers until the refuge goes into operation.

The Sacramento Bee

METRO

STATE

★ ★ Tuesday, August 15, 1995



Bee/Kim D. Johnson

A variety of birds, including egrets, black-crowned night herons and dunlins, gather in the Putah Creek Sinks area in the new Yolo Bypass

Wildlife Area. The 3,400-acre, \$16 million, federally funded wetlands restoration is the largest project of its kind under way in the West.

Flocking together for wildlife

Agencies cooperate with little squawking to restore Yolo wetlands

By Walt Wiley
Bee Staff Writer

Robin Kulakow seems a little breathless these days — as if she'd maybe just discovered a new law of physics or perhaps run a 4-minute mile.

In a way, what she has done is in that sort of league.

On Thursday, she will be on the speakers' platform along with such very big shots as Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt to make a few remarks upon the groundbreaking for the largest wetlands restoration project under way in the West.

That is the Yolo Basin Wetlands

Project, a 3,400-acre, \$16 million, federally funded U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project that will create the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which will be run by the state Department of Fish and Game.

Kulakow, as executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, was the person in the middle who kept each agency on track and the volunteers at work toward the goal of seeing the dream become a reality.

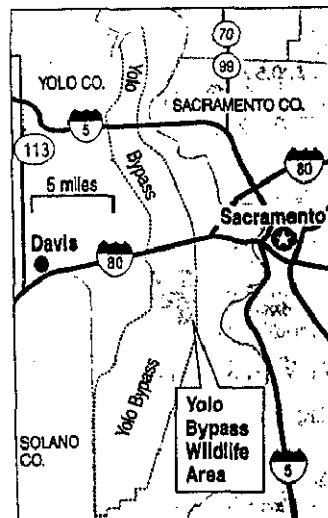
"And now it's going to happen. In a year it's all going to look just like that!" Kulakow crowed the other morning, gesturing toward a couple of acres of tules and open water that were alive with shorebirds.

The object of her enthusiasm lay right at the foot of the west levee of the Yolo Bypass, atop which she was idling along in her van on a pre-groundbreaking tour.

The bypass, created as a channel for floodwater escaping the Sacramento Valley toward the Delta and the sea, has for all its existence been kept clear of anything that might impede the water.

Farmers could grow annual crops during dry weather, but come winter the passage of floodwater became the primary use.

Now, however, with the creation of



Bee graphic

Please see BYPASS, page B3

Bypass: Restoration a challenge

Continued from page B1

the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, there are going to be acres of tule-rimmed ponds, little stands of trees, undulations and high and low spots over the expanse of the earth — things that could impede the water.

"That's what's made this special. We've actually been able to do something new," said Kulakow as she stopped to survey some pink and yellow flags marking where trees (pink) and underbrush (yellow) are being planted in the new riparian woodland.

Come fall, when the ducks, geese and other migrating waterfowl arrive, the area should be a hotbed of feathered activity, she predicted.

"And all right here so close to urban areas," she said, waving her arm to take in the horizon. "You can see the Capitol from here, Mount Diablo, the Sutter Buttes, the Sierra. And school kids from Davis and West Sacramento could ride their bikes out here.

"What a treasure this is going to be," she said, her dark eyes snapping with enthusiasm.

Kulakow, 38, a Bay Area native and former U.S. Forest Service scientist, said the Yolo Basin Foundation goes back to 1988, when it was formed amid concerns over a lack of water in Putah Creek.

Putah Creek forms Lake Berryessa behind Monticello Dam, then flows down out of the hills past Winters and Davis and into an area called the Putah Creek Sinks in the bypass.

"When we got to looking into that, we learned of the historical importance to wildlife — particularly migratory waterfowl — that that part of the bypass had," she said. "It even turned out that the state had studied it as a possible wildlife area."

The problem was that the state Department of Water Resources did not permit obstructions in its flood control structures. And the Yolo Bypass is nothing if it is not a flood control structure.

Another problem was that modifying a flood control structure built by the U.S. Army Corps of



Bee/Kim D. Johnson

Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, was the person responsible for keeping several agencies on track in turning the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area into a reality.

Engineers requires the corps' approval.

Also, the land in the bypass is privately owned. The state owns only the right to send floodwater over it. Land for a wildlife area would have to be purchased.

Yolo County Supervisor Betsy Marchand, in whose district the project lies, recalled that she was skeptical when she heard the first glimmers of plans because she knows how bitter turf battles can get.

"But I was an early convert. I could see the energy and intelligence that was going into this," she said.

Now Marchand is a director of the foundation, and she will be the master of ceremonies at Thursday's groundbreaking.

Gail Burnham, an engineer for the Corps of Engineers, said nothing anywhere in the annals of the corps is remotely similar to the Yolo wetlands project.

"Of course, now it's starting to spawn sons of the Yolo project all over the place. The idea's catching on," said Burnham.

The project is unusual, she said, because it amounts to taking something that had been developed and modifying it so that it is less developed. "That's unique for anybody," she said.

And the restoration poses special challenges, added Paul Hofmann, the state Department of Fish and Game biologist involved in the design and development of the wildlife area.

"We had to be careful to do this

right. We weren't restoring a system to pre-Columbian conditions," he said. Rather, they were creating a system that would do the job today that the old system did in its time.

"There is a difference," he said. "For instance, that old system involved heavy floods every spring. Well, we're just not going to have that today. And there are all the other considerations — the levees, mosquito abatement."

It all has come together now, and while the 3,400-acre wildlife area will be one of the smaller ones in the state's system, its location means that it will be one of the most important, said Hofmann.

He, Marchand, Burnham and others agreed that the new wildlife area would not have come to be without Kulakow and the foundation to pull together all the various public and private interests.

Principal interests, in addition to Fish and Game, the corps and Department of Water Resources, include Ducks Unlimited, the private, nonprofit organization that designs and builds waterfowl habitat, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency in charge of migratory waterfowl.

"And we try to be friends with our neighbors, let them know we're not here to make trouble for anyone," Kulakow said.

"After all, it's good friends that made this all happen."



Bae/Bryan Patrick

Robin Kulakow of the Yolo Basin Foundation said she found government workers who liked the refuge idea but none to champion it.

3,000-acre wildlife refuge designated in Yolo Bypass

By Jim Mayer
Bee Staff Writer

In winters to come, when the rejuvenated swamps are full of geese from Alaska and cranes from Siberia, the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area will be remembered as the preserve almost done in by the Endangered Species Act.

Three thousand acres between Davis and West Sacramento on Monday were officially designated as the Yolo refuge, which will re-create some of the vast marsh that once defined the lower Sacramento Valley and the swarms of creatures that feasted among the tules.

But the Yolo project stands out from other efforts to reverse the diking and draining that has left just 5 percent of the Central Valley's marshes in existence - and a growing list of marsh-dependent species arm-wrestling with extinction.

The first notable accomplishment was convincing flood-control engineers, people responsible for much of the swamp busting, to even allow a wetland inside the flood bypass between West Sacramento and Davis.

The second, and even greater, landmark was

the deal signed Monday that supporters say proves the Endangered Species Act can be flexible.

"Too often in the environmental arena we are concerned about what we can lose," observed Lt. Col. Mike Stuhr, deputy district director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento. "We need to look at what we can gain."

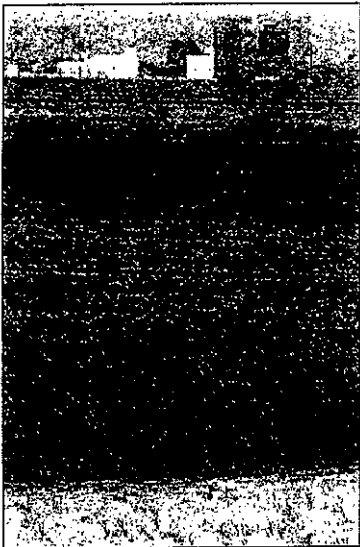
Stuhr was among the dignitaries chased off a levee by rain and into a Port of Sacramento meeting room for the official signing and proclamations ending years of difficult negotiations.

"It's probably a great day to be a duck," Stuhr said, speaking of the weather, not the promised marsh.

Universally, the dignitaries gave credit to environmental advocates with the Yolo Basin Foundation for ensuring the vision to restore the bypass was not blinded by the sometimes limited vision of government agencies.

"It is not possible for this kind of project to go forward ... unless committed citizens hold our feet to the fire," said state Resources Secretary Douglas Wheeler.

Please see WETLANDS, page B4



Project supporters hope endangered species are lured to the refuge. They agree to accept any habitat damage done by maintenance.

Wetlands: Plan inspired during Putah Creek fight

Continued from page B1

Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, said she found government employees who liked the idea but no one who would champion it.

"There has to be someone outside of government with the freedom to talk with everyone," she said. "I could listen to everyone's story and see where we agree and disagree and then propose solutions. I was free to ask for help."

Yolo environmentalists dreamed up the project during the drought as they tried to save Putah Creek.

concerned that the refuge would attract protected species, and that would hamstring maintenance in the bypass.

Project supporters do hope that endangered species are lured to the refuge - restoring habitat is a key strategy in reviving those species. But wildlife agents said they would accept any habitat damage done by maintenance because it would be under those conditions that creatures find the new marsh.

The agreement signed Monday goes that far.

Flood-control engineers also wanted to be promised that future maintenance operations would not be affected because of any new species added to the list.

"You don't have to back up many years to when we had two or three endangered species in this area," said Ray Barsch, executive director of the state Reclamation Board, which is charged with levee maintenance. "Now we have four or five. In a few years, we might have 15 that makes this agreement look pretty soft."

But wildlife agents said they couldn't make such a promise. And after months of debate everyone finally agreed to a leap of faith.

"We really felt they were going as far as they could go," Barsch said. "But if you look at the big picture this is an attempt to retrieve something that was here to begin with."

The small stream once roiled out of the Coast Range and dumped into the swampy lowlands that in wet seasons were filled by the overflowing Sacramento River.

The creek is now blocked by Monticello Dam, which forms Lake Berryessa. And the creek's terminus is now the bypass, the engineered relief valve that channels water around urban Sacramento.

Steve Chainey, also with the foundation, said the hard part wasn't coming up with the \$12 million to buy and build the wetlands on 3,000 acres of land.

The difficulty came when the dream collided with the history of stalemate between flood-control and wildlife agencies over maintaining existing levees in ways not harmful to endangered species.

Flood-control engineers were

olo: Working together

flashed from page B1
Yolo Environmental Resource
ter, the Yolo Basin Founda-
and the Yolo Land Trust.
optical politicians have been
uaded that conservation con-
a can be addressed without
ping all development or alien-
g landowners.
t was a matter of getting peo-
to work together and cooper-
to preserve and enhance natu-
resources," said Yolo
advisor Betay Marchand. Co-
ration, she said, is hard work.
ryone's concerns must be re-
solved. Every obstacle must be
ked through.

We don't have enough money
this county to be fighting and
ng and carrying on," she said.
-we try to use resources to get
something done."

Resources are always relative.
o, even Chainey agrees, is not
semitic. "This is not an area
ere people come to live among
ctacular landscapes," he said.
That reality previously encour-
id Yolo conservationists to ex-
rt their activism. Today it
apes the current agenda. Pre-
ving Yolo's groundwater is as
portant as saving oak trees. To-
to fields are "open space."

And increasingly, Yolo is find-
ng inspiration in what once was
Putah and Cache creeks are
nmed and diverted. But they
ce tumbled freely out of the
ast Range and flooded the Yolo
sin, now the engineered bypass.
ie broad swamp that apparently
rned the county its name - Yolo,
me historians say, is the Indian
ord for tule - was long ago con-
nerted by the U.S. Army into a
ide storm drain to save Sacra-
mento from its namesake river.

Today the top Yolo goal is to
ange the floodway and farm-
ing in a way also conducive to
ildlife. After four hard years, the
olo Basin Foundation now pre-
ets it is only a year away from
reaking ground" on a 3,100-acre
storation project where Putah
reek flows into the bypass.

Having sown cooperation, con-
servationists are harvesting hope.
his year, some basin growers
oded their land, and thousands
f tundra swan, geese and white
elicans are wintering there.

Why Yolo? The university is a
ource of science and education
and controversy. Environmental-
ism has always been politic in Da-
vis, where the Sierra Club boasts
ts highest per capita member-
ship. The agricultural tradition is
till dominant here - by nature, a
onserving force. And the county
s small enough for personal re-
lationships between the major play-
ers. "A majority of local officials
usually stand by commitments to
ontrol urban development. And
is congressman, Rep. Vic Fazio,
D-West Sacramento, has deliv-
ered federal money for technical
studies.

But those factors have long
been present. What's changed, ob-
servers say, is the emergence of a
few personalities who have in-
spired activists and soothed anx-
ieties, who have blended scientific
understanding and diplomacy.

Chainey, for example, works for
Jones and Stokes Associates, a
Sacramento firm that has boomed
preparing environmental studies
required for major developments
and government projects.

He mustered those skills at Pu-
tah Creek, and learned still more.

It's important to have a sus-
tained effort, "not just dabble," he
said. Set sights on realistic econ-
omphments. Respect diverse in-
terests and be patient with adver-
saries. Don't just fight.

"If you can't have fun and enjoy
yourself, your energy is going to
dry up and blow away," he said.
"It's hard to sustain when you are
just being angry."

Ted Bredy and his wife Susan
Sanders, both hold doctorates in

biology from Davis. Bredy also
works at Jones and Stokes. Sand-
ers, who was deep in Putah Creek,
is mothering their two children
full-time. Bredy remembers the
night in their Woodland home
when Supervisor Marchand ar-
rived as an adversary and left as
an ally. He remembers years be-
fore telling his then-girlfriend -
convincingly - that it wasn't
enough to understand biology.

"As biologists," Sanders said,
"you can't help but care about
what you study. Just so much has
been lost you feel compelled to
save what is left."

Robin Kulakow also was bap-
tized in Putah Creek. A former
Forest Service soils scientist, Ku-
lakow discovered that restoring
the creek was a social fight as
much as a scientific one. She now
is executive director of the Yolo
Basin Foundation, whose vision is
to make wildlife welcome in the
bypass, beginning with where Pu-
tah Creek flows into the basin.

"What got me excited was when
I realized tundra swans came
from the arctic to spend the win-
ter in Yolo County," Kulakow
said. "It makes this an important
place that should be taken care
of."

Bob Schneider, now conserva-
tion chair of the local Sierra Club
chapter, co-founded the California
Wilderness Coalition in his
younger years, then became a
builder. Schneider is working
with Yolo farmers to map the best
soils and encourage their preser-
vation. "It became obvious to me
that we developers, no matter how
much we cared, would pave over
Yolo County," he said.

It is a partnership born of ne-
cessity, said grower Richard Rom-
inger, whose family has steward-
ed Yolo land for 120 years. The
1980s real estate boom pushed
eastward up Interstate 80 from
the Bay Area and spilled west-
ward over the Sacramento River.

"There was an increasing
awareness of the limits of our re-
sources, more concern about what
it will look like in the future," said
Rominger, director of the state
Department of Food and Agricul-
ture during the 1970s. "There
have been people at work to find
where we have common ground,"
he said, "rather than emphasize
the differences."

Yolo finds that cooperation aids environment

By Jim Mayer
Bee Staff Writer

The people in Davis have a long
history of caring about the environ-
ment someplace else. They want to
save Mono Lake and Brazilian rain
forests.

And so it struck Steve Chainey as
wrong that Putah Creek, which flows
smack-dab through the University of
California, was being ignored.

"People need to respect and inter-

act with the environment they are
most in contact with," said Chainey,
a Davis alumnus, a landscape archi-
tect and chairman of the Putah
Creek Council.

Chainey and others set out in the
mid-1980s to increase appreciation
for the creek and plant a few trees.
Then drought set in. Concern became
a crisis. And to save the creek from
slow death, the council fought to get
water released from Monticello Dam
at Lake Berryessa.

"We were propelled into the politi-
cal arena big time," Chainey said.

Lawsuits, Congressmen. Emergen-
cy legislation. After all, this was wa-
ter. Although fish have died and
trees have wilted, the creek abides.

The skirmish at Putah Creek was
the Lexington and Concord for a con-
servation revolution in Yolo County.
It is one that favors compromise over
confrontation, education over rheto-
ric, realism over idealism.

"Instead of putting out fires, we are

trying to create something new," said
Susan Sanders, co-chairwoman of the
Putah Creek Council.

The Sierra Club is working with
the county farm bureau to preserve
agriculture on the best soils. Conserva-
tionists have growers, wildlife biol-
ogists and flood control engineers all
working to restore habitat in the Yolo
Bypass.

The last five years has given rise to

Please see YOLO, page B4

SECTION

B

The Sacramento Bee

METRO

STATE

Tuesday, February 9, 1993

EDITORIALS
OBITUARIES

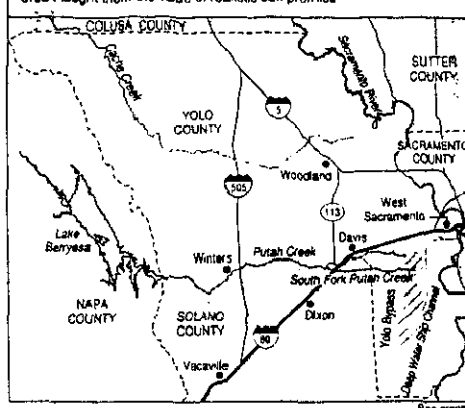


With the city of Sacramento in the background, black crowned night herons roost in willow trees on the Conaway Ranch in the Yolo basin.

B4 - The Sacramento Bee Final - Tuesday, February 9, 1993 -

Conserving close to home

Yolo County environmentalists say fighting for Putah
Creek taught them the value of realistic compromise





Karen Langer/The Daily Democrat

Boyd Gibbons, left, director of the state Department of Fish and Game, and David Kennedy, director of the state Department of Water Resources sign documents Monday officially designating the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area.

3,500-acre Yolo Basin Wildlife Area dedicated

Environmental protection reached a milestone Monday with the official designation of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area.

County Supervisor Betsy Marchand said establishment of the wetlands is the culmination of a great deal of work.

"It shows that agencies can work together for a common project," she said this morning. The Yolo Basin Wildlife Area "will be here for future generations."

Marchand, who has been a proponent of the project for years, said she considers it "probably the most exciting thing I have been involved with since I have been on the Board of Supervisors."

Local and federal officials gathered on a levee overlooking the 3,500 acres of the project located between Davis and West Sacramento but were forced by Monday's rain inside to a meeting room to sign documents that will re-establish about 2,500 acres of seasonal and permanent wetlands.

The restoration project will restore 77 percent of the seasonal and 6 percent of the perennial wetlands, 16 percent of the uplands and grasslands and 1 percent of the riparian forest in the area.

The Army Corps of Engineers will design and construct canals, water-control structures, dikes, roads and gates to create and

See WILDLIFE, back page

Wildlife

Continued from Page 1

maintain the wetlands areas.

Spearheaded by the Yolo Basin Foundation, the project upon will be managed completion by the state Department of Fish and Game.

The project is scheduled to begin this summer.

The agreements signed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the DFG, the state Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service end an impasse

between environmental wildlife groups and flood-control agencies.

Those agencies, charged with maintaining the levee system in the Yolo Bypass, have resisted efforts by wildlife groups to designate the area a refuge which would protect endangered species that use the refuge for habitat.

The agreements stipulate that the wildlife groups would allow levee maintenance to continue, even if some habitat damage results.

The Davis Enterprise

FRIDAY

August 18, 1995 Vol. 99, No. 195 Copyright 1995 The Davis Enterprise, Davis, Calif

Officials gather to dedicate Yolo Bypass wetlands project

◆ Robin Kulakow and other
agency representatives attend
groundbreaking Thursday

By MELANIE TURNER
Enterprise staff writer

Under a big blue sky on a warm August morning, Robin Kulakow of Davis stood in a place she is most familiar with — a wide-open, flat stretch of land called the Yolo Bypass.

But this time she stood in front of some tules on a little stage she shared with such distinguished guests as U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento.

Just six years ago, Kulakow, 38, had never given a speech in her life. On Thursday, she spoke before more than 200 people who gathered in the bypass to celebrate the creation of a 3,400-acre, \$18 million wildlife refuge — the biggest

wetlands restoration project west of Florida, according to Col. John Reese, engineer for the Sacramento Division of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Kulakow spoke of a dream come true.

"Well, we did it," she said. "All the necessary environmental documents are filed ... hydraulic models have been verified ... funds exchanged between agencies. I didn't have any idea what an education this was going to be."

As executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, Kulakow has acted as a volunteer coordinator between the many agencies — federal, state and local — that helped make the project a reality.

A former Forest Service soils scientist, Kulakow is known by friends for her ability to hold a baby in one hand, cook with the other and all the while talk on the telephone to government officials.

See WETLANDS, Page A-2



Mark Bullard/The Enterprise

U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony Thursday for the Yolo Basin Wetlands and Wildlife Refuge in the Yolo Bypass.

WETLANDS

Continued from Page A-1

"If there ever was a contest for who knows the most government phone numbers by heart, I'd probably be a finalist," she said.

It is Kulakow's hope that the Yolo Basin Wetlands Project will serve not only as a wildlife sanctuary, but an observatory for school-children. The foundation's primary goal is education.

When completed late next year, the project will include a wildlife sanctuary as well as areas with public access, where people can go to observe sandhill cranes and snow geese.

It will include mostly seasonal wetland (77 percent), with some permanent wetland (6 percent), grassland (16 percent) and riparian woodland (1 percent).

"Why did we do this?" she asked. "We worked to create the wildlife area for our children.

This place is for David... Leah... Sarah... Joey... Katrina... Charlie," she said, listing the names of several children, including her own and those whose parents worked on the project.

As she listed the names, she was near tears.

"Go for it, Robin," Supervisor Betsy Marchand said from her seat near the podium. Marchand is a member of the foundation's board of directors and has supported the project from the start.

"I hope that they will chase dragonflies, learn about insects, search for otters, listen for bitterns and count geese," Kulakow continued, smiling. "I hope this place will give them the opportunity to grow up to appreciate the place in which they live."

"It's such a great occasion at the end of such a long and productive struggle," said Fazio, who was instrumental in securing federal funds for the project. "We are once again in this community taking the lead."

Michael Spear, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Pacific Region, told the crowd this is only the beginning.

"We envision 10,000 acres here," he said. Spear presented Kulakow and the Yolo Basin Foundation with the National Wetlands Conservation Award.

In late 1991, the state Wildlife Conservation Board bought most of the property on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game from PG&E Properties for \$4.57 million. When construction is completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited, oversight of the area will be transferred to Fish and Game.

Ducks Unlimited is working

under a contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funding from the corps to design and build the wetlands.

Secretary of the Interior Babbitt spoke of the similarities between the largest restoration project in the Florida Everglades system and the second largest here in the Yolo Bypass. They each include "a concept of partnership, a quality of imagination and the important American ingredient of individuals."

He said a woman with a vision drove each project to fruition.

"Agriculture, wildlife and a dynamic urban area can work together, not exclusively," said Babbitt. "And I believe that message has to be spread across the entire country."

"The corps, for 100 years, successfully drained every swamp in the United States of America," he added, evoking laughter. "And now we're calling on them to put them back together."

Brig. Gen. Bruce Scott, commander of the South Pacific Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, said he hopes the project will serve as a role model for others across the nation.

"What a great day to be a soldier. What a great day to be an engineer," he said.

"What a spectacular day to celebrate the culmination of what many have called a unique partnership," added Col. Reese. "This is but the first in a series of steps on our way to restoring California's natural heritage."

The project uses canals and water control structures designed and constructed by the corps in an attempt to most closely simulate conditions of the bypass more than 100 years ago, while not obstructing the floodway.

Its creators hope it will eventually serve as an important link—a rest stop for migrant birds—along the Pacific Flyway.

Wetlands restoration an environmental success

By MELANIE TURNER
Enterprise staff writer

THEN: It was August of 1983 when a groundbreaking ceremony celebrated the largest wetland restoration project west of Florida.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt was a special guest that day, helping to mark the beginning of restoration work in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

Yolo Basin Foundation Executive Director Robin Kulakow and Steve Chainey, chairman of the Putah Creek Council, dreamed years ago of re-creating what once was part of a huge wetland basin. Around 1980, the area was developed into a facility for diverting Sacramento River floodwaters away from the city and into the Delta.

Then & Now

Kulakow and Chainey formed a small working group with the council and the Yolo Audubon Society, and numerous people soon joined them.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to "inspiring and educating people about wetlands and wildlife. It formed in 1989 to promote the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

NOW: Today, the nearly 3,700-acre wildlife area is near completion and on track to open to the public by this fall.

"We're very excited," Kulakow said. "We finally got to do



Todd Hammond/The Enterprise

UC Davis student Brett Conyverse surveys a site adjacent to the new Fish and Game headquarters for a mini-wetlands project.

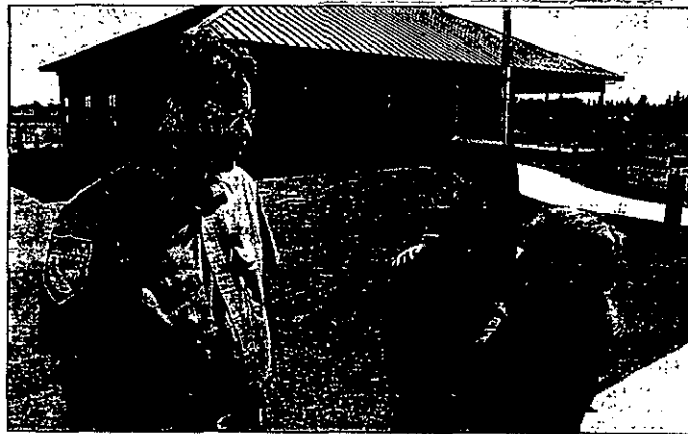
our educational programs."

Also, the state Department of Fish and Game is in the process of moving into its new headquarters along Chiles Road. Fish and Game is charged with managing the wildlife area, as well as oper-

ating the hunting program, according to Craig Stowers, wildlife area manager.

The public will have access to certain portions, while other ar-

See WETLANDS, Page A-2



Todd Hammond/The Enterprise

Craig Stowers, area manager for the state Department of Fish and Game, chats with Robin Kulakow of the Yolo Basin Foundation and her daughter, Leah Julian.

WETLANDS

Continued from Page A-1

areas will be closed and designated wildlife sanctuaries. Duck hunting will occur on other portions during hunting season.

Crews from Hardcraft Builders of Sacramento, under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, constructed Fish and Game's 13-acre operation and maintenance facility. It consists of a headquarters with office space, conference room, and a covered porch for launching field trips.

The foundation will have an office at the site for volunteer programs. Volunteers hope to move into the new facility in about two weeks, Kulakow said.

There also is a large maintenance shed in the rear of the property for work space and storage of equipment needed to maintain the wildlife area. And a residence was constructed for an on-site Fish and Game staff person.

Yolo Basin Foundation tours wrapped up on Sunday and will begin again in the fall. But the foundation's work won't slow down this summer, as it gears up for the public opening.

First, the foundation announces a new program, "Discover the Flyway," to introduce school teachers and students to the bypass as a learning resource. The program will provide teachers with activities they can use in the classroom to weave wetlands lessons throughout an integrated curriculum.

After a one-day workshop, teachers will be invited to take students out for an outdoor classroom experience.

Kulakow hopes to hold workshops for 40 teachers. Two workshops are scheduled for Aug. 19 and 20. The program is sponsored by the foundation in cooperation

with Fish and Game and the Corps.

Teachers are encouraged to call program coordinator Liz Merry at 738-1286 for more information.

Later this summer, the foundation trains volunteers to assist teachers on the school tours. Flyway volunteer assistants will be an important part of the school program, Kulakow said. A training will be held the last two weeks of September. Call Merry to request an application packet.

The foundation also will help construct a one-quarter to one-half-acre demonstration wetlands outside the new Fish and Game headquarters. Right now, engineering design work is under way by volunteers Andy Bale and Bob Smith with Larry Walker Associates, consulting engineers, according to Stowers.

"For many years we had hoped to have a demonstration wetlands on the Fish and Game site," Kulakow said. "Money from the (U.S.) Army Corps (of Engineers) fell through."

The foundation successfully secured grant money and with the help of a variety of agencies the project will come to fruition.

The demonstration project is funded through grants from the California Waterfowl Association and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The pond design is based on conceptual plans developed by the Corps.

Grading and installation of water control structures will be done by Fish and Game. Hedgerow Farms has donated native grass plugs, and other help will come from individuals with UC Davis and Ducks Unlimited.

"It's an idea that obviously a lot of people have bought into," Kulakow said.

And right now Davis Community Network is sponsoring the Yolo Basin Foundation to help it develop a Web site, Kulakow added.

"That'll be a good way to com-

municate with volunteers and get information out to the public," she said.

It was nearly two years ago that a sign was erected along Interstate 80 relaying news of the restoration project to passing motorists. Earth in the bypass began to be sculpted into shallow ponds ranging in size from 5 to 60 acres.

A small riparian forest was planted in the project's western section at that time, too. The eight-acre forest is now thriving, according to Kulakow. Some of the trees have put on seven feet of growth.

Contractors under the supervision of Ducks Unlimited have now completed the earth moving work necessary to create the thousands of acres of seasonal and permanent ponds that make up the wildlife area.

Last October, seasonal wetlands were seeded with swamp timothy, a highly nutritious waterfowl food plant. In November, uplands were seeded with native perennial grasses.

Work remaining includes the installation of the remaining water control structures, grassland seeding and planting of riparian areas north of the causeway. This work is expected to begin in June.

The area will serve as a vital link along the Pacific Flyway, used annually by thousands of migratory birds.

When construction is completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited, oversight of the area will be transferred to Fish and Game.

OPINION

Editorial

Wetland refuge benefits county

At long last the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area has been achieved.

It almost didn't happen because different agencies just couldn't come together. But because some people were very persistent there is now a refuge for wildlife on 3,000 acres between Davis and West Sacramento, which will re-create a vast wetland, reversing — if only a little — the effort to dike and drain the Central Valley marshes.

County Supervisor Betsy Marchand said the wildlife area is a culmination of a great deal of work and "shows that agencies can work together for a common project.

Marchand, who has been a proponent of the project for years, said she considers it "probably the most exciting thing I have been involved with since I have been on the Board of Supervisors."

We can credit the Yolo Basin Foundation and people like Robin Kulakow with having the vision to pursue the wetlands area. Kulakow is executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, and was quite correct when she said that people outside of government often have to talk to everyone, look for agreements and disagreements, and build from there. Too often, petty turf wars between state, federal and local agencies keep sensible things from being done.

To bring about the wetlands area the foundation first had to come up with \$12 million to buy and build the refuge. That wasn't tough. The hard part was working with flood-control and wildlife agencies over levee upkeep that wouldn't be harmful to endangered species. Flood control people were worried that if protected species were drawn to the refuge they couldn't perform needed levee maintenance. But wildlife managers said they could live with such problems because protected species in the long run would have a place to go. In the long run, however, we have a case where people have worked together to retrieve something that was originally here to being with. Cooperation toward a specific goal is never in vain. And cooperation to protect endangered species is a valiant goal.

the
West Sacramento
PRESS

Opinion

What, we agree?

Interestingly enough, the recently dedicated State Wildlife Area in the Yolo Bypass at the Putah Creek Sinks received no opposition.

How can this be? We're Californians and nothing gets approval without a fight.

It must be because the project has such high ideals. Or, maybe it's because no one was looking and they slipped something good by us before we realized it. At any rate, the project will become a reality and nobody is kicking.

Another odd, but wonderful angle in the development of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area is the involvement of the US Army Corps of Engineers. As we recall, they are the people who constructed the levees, saving us from floods, enabling vast areas of land to be developed, and helping us manage our water.

While accomplishing these necessary achievements, in the name of progress, we lost sight of some fragile balances in nature. It's encouraging to see the possibility of the pendulum of habitat destruction beginning to swing back to more comfortable levels.

Hopefully, West Sacramentans will realize what they have right in their backyard. It's an opportunity to watch the restoration efforts unfold. The Yolo Basin Foundation needs your generous assistance to continue its work in educating the public about the value of preserving our native wildlife and to create a place of beauty for generations to come. To join, call them at 756-7248 or write Yolo Basin Foundation, P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA 95617.

Wetland Link International

NEWS



Wetland Link
International

Wetland Link International IS A PROGRAMME OF THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST

NUMBER 10
JULY 1996



Bruce Babbitt, US Secretary of the Interior, addresses the crowd of supporters gathered to celebrate the start of habitat restoration at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, August 1995.

YOLO: From dream to reality

An exciting project to restore historic wetlands between Sacramento and San Francisco, USA, was reported in the last issue of *WLI News* (page 7). The community effort behind the establishment of the 'Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area', as the project is known, is a strong example of how a diverse network of organisations in the private, non-profit and public sectors can work together for a common goal, with shared benefits, and is worthy of closer scrutiny.

The loss of more than 95% of California's Central Valley wetlands (on the Pacific Flyway) to agriculture and

urban development since the 1850s provided the impetus to develop a concept for restoration in the Yolo Basin area. The idea originated with two established community organisations.

From this, the Yolo Basin Working Group grew; an ad hoc association of officers and elected representatives from federal- and state-level government conservation, water, fish, game, public works and transportation departments; the regional mosquito and vector control agency; and a number of non-governmental wildlife, farm and wilderness organisations. A consistent core of the group, including the Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF), met monthly to report new information and discuss plans.

The US Army Corps (the Corps) was involved from the beginning, and provided funding to the US non-governmental organisation Ducks Unlimited to restore wetland habitat in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The area will eventually be managed by the state government's Fish and Game

Department for hunting, as a sanctuary, and for wildlife viewing. Educational programmes will be provided by the YBF.

The YBF has developed and maintained the vital roles of representing the diverse community-based support (itself so important in attracting funding for all aspects of the work) and acting as communicator and co-ordinator between organisations.

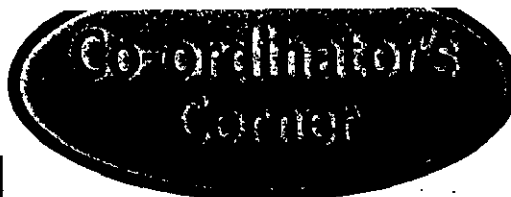
Today, after seven years of meeting and planning, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is becoming a physical reality. The final plans have been completed through a collaboration between engineers and biologists from Ducks Unlimited, the Corps and the California Fish and Game Department. Ducks Unlimited is managing the on-site work, drawing on its experience of wetland restoration from all over North America, and teaming up with the Corps for the first time. In August 1995 landscaping, habitat creation and planting began. Completion of the 1 400 hectare habitat re-creation project is planned for autumn 1996.

A feasibility study for a visitor centre has been completed. But we are not awaiting completion of our Centre before we begin educational work. This is already operational, targeting interested people at this stage, through printed materials, field trips and other regular wetland events. In fact, education began as soon as people began discussing the concept on Day 1! Future plans will put school outreach as our priority, and will include a training programme for volunteer field guides.

Continued on page two

I differently understood around the world. I would like to help clarify this, particularly at a time when Wetlands International, with a logo a little similar to the original WLI logo, has recently been announced.

Wetland Link International (WLI) is a programme of The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), a UK charity dedicated to saving wetlands for wildlife and people. Wetlands International is a different UK charity, formed by the integration in 1995 of the International Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), the Asian Wetland Bureau (AWB) and Wetlands for the Americas. There is a link between the two: the Director of Education and Public Affairs for WWT, Mr Doug Hulyer, is ex officio Director of WLI, and he is also the Co-ordinator of Wetlands International's Specialist Group on Education and Public Awareness, of which WLI is a member.



Henceforth, the WWT Wetland Link International programme should be referred to as WWT Wetland Link International, or WWT-WLI, to help clarify its position. I would like to request that this format is consistently adopted. Thank you.



One of the most difficult types of request received by the WWT-WLI office is for help with the very early stages of a Centre development proposal, specifically the formulation of outline functional and design concepts. We wish to relay

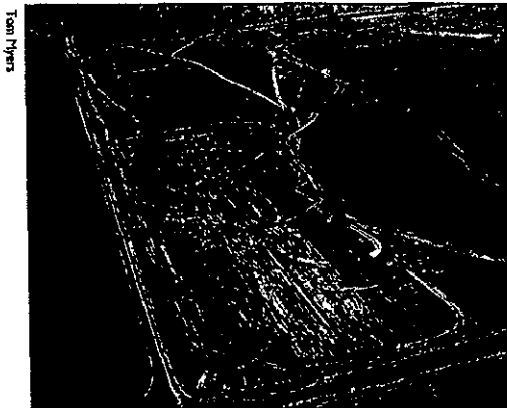
the publication of self-help guidelines and case studies (which we plan to undertake in the future), our usual approach is to share whatever relevant documentation we have. This may include existing outline concept papers, floor plans, strategic plans, architects' briefs and successful proposals, for example, from a range of Centres around the world.

Who has such documents to share? Ideally, we would like to hold more in the WWT-WLI office, for more effective use in the future. Usually such documents are rarely referred to once a Centre is operational, yet they can be invaluable tools for others going through the initial phases of Centre development. Please could you let me know if you have such documents, and if copies can be made available for the use of others, through the WWT-WLI office? Thank you for any help you can give.

YOLO: From dream to reality

Continued from page one

So how does the YBF, a pivotal, community-based organisation, work and how have seven years of planning and development been funded?



Aerial view of earth-movers excavating ponds for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, October 1995.

The YBF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to education and inspiring people about wetlands and other Central Valley wildlife habitats. We have a board of 17 members drawn from the range of interested parties, including local

government, schools, business, academia, law, environmental education, banking, (duck) hunting; and myself, the only salaried board member, as executive director. There are two part-time YBF employees, and a core group of about 30 dedicated volunteers.

Funds have come from membership of the YBF, annual fundraising events, the sale of Yolo-marked goods such as a set of field duck identification charts, and occasional non-government grants such as the one that funded the Centre feasibility study.

Remember: some dreams do come true. A collective vision is worth pursuing, but you must be tenacious. We are not finished yet!

From our experiences over the past seven years I would like to offer the following, in an effort to help others in the future:

1. Have a clear mission and do not be diverted from it.
2. Define the project clearly and unambiguously.
3. Gain a thorough understanding of the project area: its history; ownership;

political jurisdictions; flood history; the local communities and their interests, hopes and concerns; water, wildlife and soils.

4. Base all plans on good science; fund studies to fill any gaps in understanding.
5. Involve everyone in discussions, keep them informed and respect their concerns.
6. Solicit and achieve local government support early on, and higher-level government support if possible.
7. Appoint a co-ordinator to serve as a facilitator, communicator and spokesperson, who has the responsibility to ensure that follow-up is completed.
8. Never assume that things are happening: always make sure.
9. Do not be afraid to be creative and innovative.
10. Actively recognise everyone's contributions.

Robin Kulakow
Executive Director
Yolo Basin Foundation
PO Box 943, Davis, CA 95617, USA

Attachment 9

Yolo Flyway Newsletter

Attachment 10

Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer

When you drive on Interstate 80 east toward the Yolo Causeway between Davis and Sacramento, you may observe the large sign identifying the Yolo Basin Wetlands. That sign with the logos of the many Yolo Basin partners marks the location of one of the nation's most exciting developments in nature conservation and public education. The Yolo Basin Wetlands, officially known as the Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area, is the largest public/private restoration project in the West. 3,500 acres of land in the Yolo Bypass floodway are under conversion to wetlands and other habitats.

Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation) was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Foundation is a non profit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. The 16 member board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnership that led to the creation of the Yolo Basin Wetlands project.

A principal goal of the Foundation is environmental education in the context of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Now that the restoration of the wildlife area is nearly complete, the Foundation is ready to move forward with its educational mission. We are gearing up to recruit and train a new cadre of volunteers who will serve as docents to provide opportunities for hundreds of students from throughout the region to experience the new wildlife area first hand. The new "Discover the Flyway, program for schools" is slated to begin in



Fall 1997. In addition, a committee is evaluating the planning steps necessary to build a visitor center.

Yolo Basin Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Wildlife Area. Educational programs under-way include: sponsoring the fourth annual California Duck Days - a three day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway to be held February 14,-16, 1997; publishing the Yolo Flyway newsletter; bringing wetlands education into the schools with our "Wild About Wetlands" kits; and, introducing people to the natural places in the community through field trips. This year we are offering tours of the wildlife area once a month in partnership with Yolo Audubon Society.

The establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the work of the Foundation has been widely regarded as a model for planning and completion of other wetland projects. The bypass is a key component of the habitat restoration planned as part of the Cal/Fed Bay Delta Accord process now underway, and is a vital element of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture's habitat restoration goals. The Foundation will be an important local player in implementing these many plans.